

Message Text

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ORIGIN COA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 SCI-06 COME-00

DODE-00 NSF-04 INT-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

EB-11 /085 R

DRAFTED BY COA:RTLEROY:MJB

8/13/73 EXT 20650

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EUR/IB - MR. DEMPSEY (SUB)

AF/N - MR. MONTVILLE (SUB)

----- 076625

P R 132118Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 160055

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TPHY, SS

SUBJECT: WEST AFRICAN MARINE RESEARCH PROGRAM

REF: MADRID A-200 AUG 1972 (NOTAL)

1. DURING PERIOD MID FEBRUARY THRU MAY 1974, THREE US RESEARCH VESSELS WILL BE OFF WEST AFRICAN COAST. WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION'S R/V ATLANTIS II, THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI'S R/V JAMES M. GILLISS, AND THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION'S (DOC) R/V OCEANOGRAPHER WILL BE COLLECTING DATA IN SUPPORT OF A BROAD PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL OCEANOGRAPHIC INVESTIGATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM ASSOCIATED WITH THE UPWELLING PHENOMENA FOUND ALONG THIS COAST. THE SHIPS EXPECT TO BASE OUT OF LAS PALMAS, CANARY ISLANDS AND WILL MAKE THREE TO FOUR PORT CALLS THERE DURING THE CRUISE. THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTUAL AREA OF INTEREST WILL BE A ONE DEGREE GRID SQUARE

OFF THE COAST OF SPANISH SAHARA. 21 DEGREES 10 MINUTES NORTH LATITUDE 16 DEGREES 50 MINUTES WEST LONGITUDE IS SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SQUARE. ALTERNATIVE SITES ARE BEING CONSIDERED OFF SENEGALESE AND MAURITANIAN COASTS, BUT IT IS EXPECTED MOST, IF NOT ALL, WORK WILL BE DONE AT SPANISH SAHARA LOCATION. THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE IS TO OBTAIN PREDICTIVE CAPABILITY CONCERNING THIS COMPLEX SYSTEM--A CAPABILITY THAT COULD PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN UNDERSTANDING, MANAGING AND CONSERVING THE IMPORTANT FISHERIES RESOURCES OF THIS REGION. DATA TO BE COLLECTED INCLUDES WIND, WATER TEMPERATURE, SALINITY, NITRATE, NITRITE, AMMONIA, PHOSPHATE, SILICATE, OXYGEN, CURRENTS, PHYTOPLANKTON, ZOOPLANKTON, FISH; AIRPLANE OBSERVATIONS OF WATER, TEMPERATURE, AND SEAWATER COLOR; SATELLITE TEMPERATURE DATA; BENTHIC BIOMASS, EKMAN ZONE CIRCULATION, INTERNAL WAVES, NUTRIENT UPTAKE.

2. THIS PROGRAM IS SPONSORED AND FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AS PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF OCEAN EXPLORATION. IT IS MANAGED BY THE COASTAL UPWELLING ECOSYSTEMS ANALYSIS (CUEA) NATIONAL COORDINATION CENTER BASED AT DUKE UNIVERSITY'S MARINE LAB. IT WILL INVOLVE SCIENTISTS FROM SEVERAL INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT LABS. DR. RICHARD BARBER OF DUKE WILL BE CHIEF SCIENTIST ABOARD THE R/V ATLANTIS II. HIS COUNTERPARTS WILL BE DR. DAVID HALPERN OF NOAA'S PACIFIC OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORY ON THE R/V OCEANOGRAPHER, AND DR. ROBERT L. SMITH OF OREGON STATE UNIV. ON THE R/V JAMES M. GILLISS. SPANISH SCIENTISTS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE. THE CUEA COORDINATION CENTER IS COOPERATING WITH THE INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIONES PESQUERAS OF BARCELONA (DR. RAMON MARGALEF). CUEA ALSO IN CONTACT WITH FOLLOWING: CENTRE DES RESEARCHES OCEANOGRAPHIQUE, DAKAR--DR. BA. SENEGALESE PARTICIPATION IS EXPECTED. CENTRE UNIV DE LUMINY MARSEILLES CEDEX--DR. H. J. MINAS.

3. R/V ATLANTIS II IS OPERATED AS PRIVATE VESSEL BY WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION. MASTER IS CAPT. H. L. BABBITT WITH OFFICER/CREW COMPLEMENT OF 30, WITH 26 EXPECTED IN SCIENTIFIC PARTY. LENGTH 64 METERS, UNCLASSIFIED

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DISPLACE 2300 TONS. AGENT LAS PALMAS ECOPESA.

4. R/V JAMES M. GILLISS OPERATED AS PRIVATE VESSEL BY UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI. MASTER TO BE NAMED LATER, WITH OFFICER/CREW COMPLEMENT OF 22, EXPECTING 16 IN SCIENTIFIC PARTY. LENGTH 63 METERS, DISPLACE 1428 TONS. AGENT BLANDY BROTHERS.

5. R/V OCEANOGRAPHER IS PUBLIC VESSEL OPERATED BY COMMERCE DEPT'S NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION. MASTER IS CAPT. BARBEE WITH OFFICER/CREW COMPLEMENT OF 85. LENGTH 92 METERS, DISPLACE 3900 TONS. AGENT NOT KNOWN.

6. ACTION: INITIATE CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WITHIN TERRITORIAL SEA SPANISH SAHARA FOR APPROXIMATE DATES ABOVE. GOS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT SINCE PORTION WORK IS WITHIN WHAT WE RECOGNIZE AS THEIR SEAS, USG IS WILLING TO ATTEMPT TO FULFILL CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN REPAIR. WE CONSIDER THIS TO BE AN UNUSUALLY WELL ORGANIZED PROGRAM. A GREAT DEAL OF EARLY PLANNING HAS BEEN NECESSARY BECAUSE OF SIZE OF SHIP TIME COMMITMENT. DEPT EXPECTS TO CONTINUE TO CHANNEL INFO TO GOS THRU POST AS PERSONNEL AND DATES BECOME FIRM. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DO THIS SO EARLY FOR A SMALLER SCALE, MORE LOOSELY ORGANIZED PROJECT. INFORMATION SUPPLIED IS CURRENT BEST ESTIMATE, EXACT DATES AND PERSONNEL MIGHT BE ALTERED AT LAST MINUTE, BUT OVERALL PROJECT OUTLINE AS SUPPLIED HERE IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN FIRM. ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIPS, OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE160055
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RTLEROY:MJB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730840/aaaabdot.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN COA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MADRID A-200 AUG 1972 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11-Jan-2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEST AFRICAN MARINE RESEARCH PROGRAM
TAGS: OCLR, TPHY, SS
To: MADRID
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005